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REMARKS

Applicants provide the following remarks in response to the official action dated January 24, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

Applicants note, with appreciation, the indicated allowability of claims 47-52 if amended to resolve the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claims 47 and 52 have been amended to change "position" to "state." Claims 53-66 have been cancelled without prejudice.

35 U.S.C. §112 rejection

Claims 47-52 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that the specification does not include a written description of moving a stabilizer bar from a first "position" to a second "position." To more particularly point out the invention, Applicants have amended claims 47 and 52 to change the term "position" to "state."

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification, e.g. at page 8, lines 3-6, includes a proper written description of moving a stabilizer from a first state (engaged or disengaged) to a second state (engaged or disengaged). Applicants respectfully request therefore that the rejection of claims 47-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn upon reconsideration.

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35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 Rejections

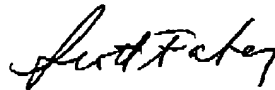
Claims 53-66 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or § 103 as being unpatentable over Hopper (EP 0984133), Kompelien et al. (U.S. 4,423,364), Ignatius et al (U.S. 6,637,757) and/or Fangio (U.S. 5,744,876). Claims 53-66 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejections thereof moot.

In light of the foregoing claim amendments and remarks, all of the presently pending claims are believed to be in a condition for allowance. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Early allowance is earnestly solicited. In the event the Examiner deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney at (603) 668-6560.

In the event there are any fee deficiencies please charge them (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 50-2121.

Respectfully submitted,



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